(c) whether it is a fact that proper and sufficient dialogue is not taking place between Government and organisations associated with tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No specific recongnition is granted to any association or body by Ministry of Tourism at present. However, the Mimistry does interact with professional association/ bodies dealing with tourism.

(b) to (d) Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association of India, Hotel Association of India, Travel Agent Association of India, Indian Association of Tour Operators and Indian Tourist Transporters Association regularly interact with the Ministry of Tourism. Generally, senior officials of the Ministry also attend the annual conventions of" these associations.

Ministry Status for Tourism Department

3206. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government'^ attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Tourism Department out of Civil Aviation gets Ministry Status" appearing in the Economic Times dated the 27th June, 1998;

(b) whether there would be a new role for the Director General of Tourism;

(c) whether it is a fact that no new ideas have emanated from the Director General, Tourism;

(d) whether professionals from the tourism industry will be employed to give a new thrust to the tourism industry; and

(e) if not, how Government propose to energise the office of Director General, Tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) th*e* main role of the Directorate General of Tourism "as the nodal agency for development and promotion of tourism in India and abroad and for implementing Government policies in this regard, continues to remain so but enhanced by this new status.

(c) No, Sh". Many new ideas, concepts and initiatives continue to emanate from Director General. Tourism particulary in the context of awareness Creation, publicity and promotion of events organised by the Ministry of Tourism as part of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of 50th Year of India's Independence.

(d) and (e) A Board of Tourism Industry and Trade has been constituted to advise the Government on various policy matters relating to tourism and to over see and advise on the implementation of national strategy for tourism development. The members of the Board also include professionals from the tourism industry.

विदेशी पर्यटक

3207. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया**: क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सच है कि विशव के कुल पर्यटकों में से केवल 0.4 प्रतिशत पर्यटक ही भारत आते हैं,

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का क्या आकलन है, और

(ग) भारत की ओर पर्यटकों के आकर्षित न होने के संबंध में क्या क्या कारक उत्तरदायी हैं?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग): (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1997 के दौरान विश्व पर्यटक आगमनों में भारत का प्रतिशत हिस्सा 0.39 था।

(ग) विश्व पर्यटक यातायात में भारत के कम हिस्से में मुख्य कारण, देश में अवसरंचना के सामान्य स्तर में कमियां तथा संवर्धन के लिए संसाधानों का अपर्याप्त होना है।